

September 09, 1998

---

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Rep John Olver (D-First District) announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded \$226,648 in grants to assist the Amherst, Granby and Belchertown Police Departments in their community policing efforts.

The three grants -- awarded under the School-Based Partnerships program of the Justice Department -- will help the police departments work more closely with the local schools to reduce crime and improve the safety of the children.

"Community policing has proven to be an effective tool in combating crime in our schools and neighborhoods," said Olver. "These grants will help the police departments and the schools work together to create a safer environment for our children."

"I applaud the Administration and the Department of Justice for continuing to put our children first and for supporting the efforts of the local law enforcement agencies to keep our schools safe."

The grants are as follows:

Amherst Police Department will receive \$99,953 to assist the Amherst Regional High School in its efforts to reduce crime and improve the safety of the children.

Granby Police Department will receive \$25,175 to assist Granby Junior High School and Granby Middle School in their community policing efforts.

Belchertown Police Department will receive \$101,520 to assist Belchertown Public Schools with its community policing efforts.

The School-Based Partnership program is a new initiative of the Clinton Administration and is designed to help the police departments and the schools work together to reduce crime and improve the safety of the children.

###